- (b) a thin metal film formed on said resin film, wherein said thin metal film is made from a titanium-aluminum alloy containing 20-50% by weight of titanium and 80-50% by weight of aluminum, said thin metal film having a homogenous composition throughout a whole thickness of said thin metal film and having a color similar to [[pure]] chrome; and
  - (c') a clear colored protective film coated on said thin metal film.

### 4. - 8. (Previously Cancelled)

9. (Withdrawn) A structure according to any one of claims 1, 2 and 3, wherein said thin metal film has a thickness of  $0.03-1.0\mu m$ .

#### 10. (Previously Cancelled)

- 11. (Withdrawn) A structure according to claim 2, wherein said clear protective film has a thickness of 5-20 µm.
- 12. (Withdrawn) A structure according to claim 3, wherein said clear colored protective film has a thickness of  $20\text{-}40\mu m$ .
- 13. (Withdrawn) A structure according to claim 3, wherein said clear colored protective film is made from clear resin comprising a pigment or a dye.
- 14. (Withdrawn) A structure according to claim 13, wherein said clear resin is selected from acryl-based, urethan-based or epoxy-based resins.
- 15. (Withdrawn) A structure according to claim 13, wherein said pigment is selected from carbon-based, lead chromate-based, iron(II) ferrocyanide-based, cobalt-based, or chromium oxide-based pigments.
- 16. (Withdrawn) A structure according to claim 13, wherein said pigment is selected from thren-based, quinacrine staining-based, isoindolinone-based, or metal complex pigments.

17. (Withdrawn) A structure according to claim 13, wherein said dye is selected from an acid dye, a mordant dye, a basic dye, a disperse dye, an edible dye, a direct dye or a sulphur dye.

### 18. - 19. (Previously Cancelled)

- 20. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a surface structure formed on an aluminum wheel for an automobile, said method comprising:
  - (a) coating a resin film on said aluminum wheel; and
- (b) forming a thin metal film having a homogenous composition throughout a whole thickness of said thin metal film and having a color similar to [[pure]] chrome on said resin film, wherein said thin metal film is made from a titanium-aluminum alloy containing 20-50% by weight of titanium and 80-50% by weight of aluminum formed by any one of cathode arc[[-type]] ion plating and sputtering using a single sintered target containing 20%-50% by weight of titanium and 80%-50% by weight of aluminum in a [[nitrogen-free]] vacuum atmosphere.
  - 21. (Original) A method according to claim 20, further comprising:
  - (c) coating a clear protective film on said metal film.
- 22. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a surface structure formed on an aluminum wheel for an automobile, said method comprising:
  - (a) coating a resin film on said aluminum wheel;
- (b) forming a thin metal film having a homogenous composition throughout a whole thickness of said thin metal film and having a color similar to [[pure]] chrome on said resin film, wherein said thin metal film is made from a titanium-aluminum alloy containing 20-50% by weight of titanium and 80-50% by weight of aluminum formed by any one of cathode arc[[-type]] ion plating and sputtering using a single sintered target containing 20%-50% by weight of titanium and 80%-50% by weight of aluminum in a [[nitrogen-free]] vacuum atmosphere; and
  - (c') coating a clear colored protective film on said thin metal film.

# KITAGAWA et al. -- Appln. No. 09/662,937

23. (Original) A method according to any one of claim 20, 21 and 22, wherein said resin film is coated by powder coating.

# 24.-29. (Previously Cancelled)

- 30. (Previously Amended) A method according to any one of claims 20, 21 and 22, wherein said thin metal film has a thickness of 0.03-1.0µm.
  - 31. (Previously Cancelled)
- 32. (Original) A method according to claim 21, wherein said clear protective film has a thickness of 5-20µm.
- 33. (Original) A method according to claim 22, wherein said clear colored protective film has a thickness of  $20\text{-}40\mu m$ .
- 34. (Original) A method according to claim 22, wherein said clear colored protective film is made from a clear resin comprising a pigment or a dye.
- 35. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 34, wherein said clear resin is selected from one or more of the group consisting of acryl-based, urethan-based [[or]] and epoxy-based resins.
- 36. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 34, wherein said pigment is selected from one or more of the group consisting of carbon-based, lead chromate-based, iron(II) ferrocyanide-based, cobalt-based, [[or]] and chromium oxide-based pigments.
- 37. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 34, wherein said pigment is selected from one or more of the group consisting of thren-based, quinacrine staining-based, isoindolinone-based, [[or]] and metal complex pigments.

38. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 34, wherein said dye is selected from one or more of the group consisting of an acid dye, a mordant dye, a basic dye, a disperse dye, an edible dye, a direct dye [[or]] and a sulphur dye.